

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information providing apparatus for providing information to the user based on an action plan, comprising:
 - an acquiring unit for acquiring said action plan, which includes a time and date schedule of the user;
 - a time and date detecting unit for detecting the present time and date;
 - a provision-information selecting unit connected to said acquiring unit and said time and date detecting unit, said provision-information selecting unit selecting provision-information provided to the user according to the time difference between said present time and date, which is detected by said time and date detecting unit, and said time and date schedule of said action plan acquired from said acquiring unit; and
 - a providing unit connected to said provision-information selecting unit, said providing unit providing the user with said provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting unit.
2. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said action plan is a travel plan that includes information of a travel destination of the user as an action content of the user.
3. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:
 - a position detecting unit for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user; and
 - said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit.
4. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
 - a provision-information database which stores said provision-information with corresponding said time difference,

wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects provision-information using said provision-information database.

5. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects information, which is related to preparation for travel indicated in said travel plan, as said provision-information when said present time and date is within a first period, which is a period from a predetermined time and date before said time and date schedule to said time and date schedule.

6. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said action plan includes said time and date schedule of travel with corresponding said travel destination at said time and date schedule; and

said provision-information selecting unit selects information, which is related to said travel destination corresponding to said time and date schedule indicated in said action plan, as said provision-information when said present time and date is within a second period, which is a period from said time and date schedule to a predetermined time and date after said time and date schedule.

7. An apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a position detecting unit for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user when said time and date detecting unit detects said present time and date;

a comparing unit connected to said acquiring unit, said time and date detecting unit, and said position detecting unit, said comparing unit comparing said travel destination at said time and date schedule corresponding to said present time and date with said position of said portable terminal or comparing said time and date schedule at said travel destination corresponding to said

position of said portable terminal with said present time and date;
and

a travel plan modifying unit for modifying said action plan when said travel destination at said time and date schedule corresponding to said present time and date does not match said position of said portable terminal or when said time and date schedule at said travel destination corresponding to said position of said portable terminal does not match said present time and date.

8. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to a purpose of an action of the user in said action plan.

9. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to a past action history of the user.

10. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a user history database for storing said action plan acquired from said acquiring unit as action history information of the user with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information using said action history information stored in said user history database.

11. An apparatus as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:
a user history database for storing said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit as action history information with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user who carries

said portable terminal, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information using said action history information stored in said user history database.

12. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said provision-information selecting unit differentiates a degree of minuteness of said provision-information according to a distance from an edge of a terminal designating area, which is previously determined for each of said portable terminals, to said position of said portable terminal.

13. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects a type of said provision-information according to a distance from an edge of a terminal designating area, which is previously determined for each of said portable terminals, to said position of said portable terminal.

14. An apparatus as claimed in claim 12 or 13, further comprising:
a portable terminal area table which contains portable terminal identification information for identifying said portable terminal and said terminal designating area corresponding to said portable terminal identification information, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit recognizes said terminal designating area designated to said portable terminal using said portable terminal identification information.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim 12 or 13, further comprising:
an area designating unit for designating said terminal designating area to said portable terminal based on a past action history of the user.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to a number of times visiting said travel destination by the user.

17. An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to personal information of the user.

18. An information providing apparatus for providing information to the user based on an action plan for travel of the user, comprising:

an acquiring unit for acquiring said action plan, which includes a time and date schedule for said travel and a travel destination corresponding to said time and date schedule;

a time and date detecting unit for detecting a present time and date;

a position-detecting unit for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;

a comparing unit connected to said acquiring unit, said time and date detecting unit, and said position detecting unit, said comparing unit outputting a difference-signal representing at least one of a time difference and a position difference according to the signal output from said acquiring unit, said time and date detecting unit, and said position detecting unit;

a provision-information selecting unit connected to said comparing unit, said provision-information selecting unit selecting provision-information provided to said user based on said difference-signal output from said comparing unit; and

a providing unit connected to said provision-information selecting unit for providing the user with said provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting unit.

19. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

said comparing unit outputs said difference-signal representing said position difference by comparing said travel destination at said time and date schedule corresponding to said present time and date with said position of said portable terminal.

20. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein:

said comparing unit outputs said difference-signal representing said time difference by comparing said time and date schedule at said travel destination corresponding to said position of said portable terminal with said present time and date.

21. An apparatus as claimed in claim 19 or 20, wherein:

said comparing unit further outputs an agreement signal representing an inverse of a degree of said time difference or said position difference obtained by said comparison; and

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to said agreement signal output from said comparing unit.

22. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:

a travel plan modifying unit for modifying said action plan when said travel destination at said time and date schedule corresponding to said present time and date does not match said position of said portable terminal or when said time and date schedule at said travel destination corresponding to said position of said portable terminal does not match said present time and date, wherein:

said position-detecting unit detects a position of said portable terminal when said time and date detecting unit detects said present time and date.

23. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said

provision-information according to a purpose of said travel.

24. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to action history of the user.

25. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:
a user history database for storing said action plan acquired from said acquiring unit as action history information of the user with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information using said action history information stored in said user history database.

26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, further comprising:
a user history database for storing said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit as action history information with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user who carries said portable terminal, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information using said action history information stored in said user history database.

27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said provision-information selecting unit differentiates a degree of minuteness of said provision-information according to a distance from an edge of a terminal designating area, which is previously determined for each of said portable terminals, to said position of said portable terminal.

28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects a type of said

provision-information according to a distance from an edge of a terminal designating area, which is previously determined for each of said portable terminals, to said position of said portable terminal.

29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27 or 28, further comprising:
a portable terminal area table which contains portable terminal identification information for identifying said portable terminal and said terminal designating area corresponding to said portable terminal identification information, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit recognizes said terminal designating area designated to said portable terminal using said portable terminal identification information.

30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 27 or 28, further comprising:
an area designating unit for designating said terminal designating area to said portable terminal based on action history of the user.

31. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein:
said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to a number of times visiting said travel destination by the user.

32. An apparatus as claimed in claim 18, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects said provision-information according to personal information of the user.

33. An information providing apparatus for providing information to the user, comprising:
a position-detecting unit for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;
a provision-information selecting unit connected to said

position detecting unit, said provision-information selecting unit selecting first provision-information corresponding to said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit when said position detecting unit detects that said portable terminal positions inside a predetermined area designated to said portable terminal, and said provision-information selecting unit further selecting second provision-information corresponding to said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit when said position detecting unit detects that said portable terminal positions outside a predetermined area designated to said portable terminal; and

a providing unit connected to said provision-information selecting unit, said providing unit providing the user with one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting unit.

34. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information according to moving distance information which indicates a distance from a position of said portable terminal and an edge of said predetermined area designated to said portable terminal.

35. An apparatus as claimed in claim 34, further comprising:
a provision-information database for storing said first provision-information and said second provision-information with corresponding said moving distance information; and

said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information using said provision-information database.

36. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first

provision-information and said second provision-information according to said predetermined area determined based on action history of the user.

37. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:

a user history database for storing said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting unit as action history information with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user who carries said portable terminal, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information using said action history information stored in said user history database.

38. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:

a user history database for storing said action plan acquired from said acquiring unit as action history information of the user with corresponding user identification information, which is used for identifying the user, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information based on said predetermined area determined by said action history information stored in said user history database.

39. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said provision-information selecting unit differentiates a degree of minuteness of one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information according to a distance from an edge of said predetermined area to said position of said portable terminal.

40. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said

provision-information selecting unit selects a type of one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information according to a distance from an edge of said predetermined area to said position of said portable terminal.

41. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:
a portable terminal area table which includes portable terminal identification information for identifying said portable terminal and said predetermined area corresponding to said portable terminal identification information, wherein:

said provision-information selecting unit recognizes said predetermined area using said portable terminal area table.

42. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, further comprising:
an area designating unit for designating said predetermined area to said portable terminal based on action history of the user.

43. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein:
said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information according to said predetermined area determined on the number of times the user visits said predetermined area.

44. An apparatus as claimed in claim 33, wherein said provision-information selecting unit selects one of said first provision-information and said second provision-information according to said predetermined area determined on personal information of the user.

45. An information providing apparatus for providing information to the user, comprising:

a position-detecting unit for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;

a provision-information selecting unit connected to said position detecting unit, said provision-information selecting unit selecting provision-information to be provided to the user, which corresponds to said position of said portable terminal, according to a distance of said position of said portable terminal from an edge of a predetermined area designated to said portable terminal; and

a providing unit connected to said provision-information selecting unit for providing the user with said provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting unit.

46. A method for providing information to the user based on an action plan, comprising:

acquiring said action plan, which includes a time and date schedule of the user;

detecting present time and date;

selecting provision-information according to the time difference between said present time and date and said time and date schedule of said action plan; and

providing the user with said selected provision-information.

47. A method for providing information to the user based on an action plan for travel of the user, comprising:

acquiring the action plan, which includes a time and date schedule for the travel and a travel destination corresponding to said time and date schedule;

detecting a present time and date;

detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;

outputting a difference-signal representing at least one of a time difference and a position difference according to said time and date schedule, said travel destination, said present time

and date, and said position of said portable terminal;
selecting provision-information based on said
difference-signal; and
providing the user with said selected
provision-information.

48. A method for providing information to the user, comprising:
detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with
the user;

selecting first provision-information corresponding to
said position of said portable terminal when said position of said
portable terminal is detected to be inside a predetermined area
designated to said portable terminal;

selecting second provision-information corresponding to
said position of said portable terminal when said position of said
portable terminal is detected to be outside a predetermined area
designated to said portable terminal; and

providing the user with one of said first
provision-information and said second provision-information
selected by said selecting.

49. A computer program for providing information to the user
based on an action plan, comprising:

an acquiring module for acquiring said action plan, which
includes a time and date schedule of the user;

a time and date detecting module for detecting present time
and date;

a provision-information selecting module for selecting
provision-information provided to the user according to the time
difference between said present time and date, which is detected
by said time and date detecting module, and said time and date
schedule of said action plan acquired from said acquiring module;
and

a providing module for providing the user with said

provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting module.

50. A computer program for providing information to the user based on an action plan for travel of the user, comprising:

an acquiring module for acquiring said action plan, which includes a time and date schedule for said travel and a travel destination corresponding to said time and date schedule;

a time and date detecting module for detecting a present time and date;

a position-detecting module for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;

a comparing module for outputting a difference-signal representing at least one of a time difference and a position difference according to the signal output from said acquiring module, said time and date detecting module, and said position detecting module;

a provision-information selecting module for selecting provision-information provided to the user based on said difference-signal output from said comparing module; and

a providing module for providing the user with said provision-information selected by said provision-information selecting module.

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51. A computer program for providing information to the user, comprising:

a position-detecting module for detecting a position of a portable terminal carried with the user;

a provision-information selecting module for selecting first provision-information corresponding to said position of said portable terminal detected by said position detecting module when said position detecting module detects that said portable terminal positions inside a predetermined region designated to said portable terminal, and selecting second provision-information

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